AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims

Claims 1-13 (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) Method as recited in claim ~~14~~ 21 further comprising machining said pressure consolidated blend from said step (e) to final desired shape.

16. (Currently Amended) Method as recited in claim ~~14~~ 21 wherein said agglomerated blend comprises from about 40 - about 80 atomic percent ~~Me~~ W, about 60 - about 20 atomic percent Si_3N_4 with said the atomic percent of said Si_3N_4 and said ~~Me~~ W equaling about 100 atomic percent, said ~~sintering aid being~~ MgO being present in an amount of between about 0.05-6 weight percent based on the weight of said Si_3N_4.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) Method as recited in claim 16 further comprising conducting said pressure consolidating step ~~(e)~~ (d) in an inert gaseous atmosphere.

19. (Original) Method as recited in claim 18 wherein said pressure is greater than about 1 atmosphere.

20. (Original) Method as recited in claim 19 wherein pressure consolidation is conducted at temperatures of about 900°C-1700°C.

21. (New) Method of making a sputter target for sputtering a heater layer of an ink jet printer comprising:

(a) providing W metal powder, Si_3N_4 powder and MgO;

(b) blending said W metal powder, Si3N4 powder and MgO to form an agglomerated blend, screening said agglomerated blend to result in an agglomerated blend of less than 300 microns in dimension; and

(c) pressure consolidating said agglomerated blend of less than 300 microns under heated conditions for a time sufficient to form a consolidated blend having an actual density of greater than 95% of the theoretical density.